

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 are independent.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,944,358 to Morimoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0091665 to Beck et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing system which can code image data, form a JPEG2000 file, and transmit the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations. A relator relates a plurality of regions preset in the image data to destinations. A replacer replaces code data constituting one of regions corresponding to the destinations or the other regions with code data which make pieces of information included in the regions invisible in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to the destinations.

In a non-limiting example described in applicants' specification in paragraphs [0044] and [0045], document 40 is an example of an original document to be transmitted to a plurality of destinations. Original document 40 includes regions 41, 42 and 43 which are colored red, yellow and blue, respectively. A file in which the red colored regions 41 are invisible, is generated for destination A. A file in which a yellow colored region 42 is invisible, is generated for destination B and a file in which a blue colored region 43 is invisible, is generated for destination C. When the images are acquired by the respective destinations, each will have respective invisible regions. Such a feature is not disclosed by Morimoto.

Instead, Morimoto discloses an image dividing means 14a that divides raw image data into first divided image data A1 and second divided image data A2. The

divided image data is combined and output to the CPU 17. The Office Action asserts that the claimed feature of making pieces of information invisible is disclosed in Morimoto at column 5, line 65 through column 6, lines 1-5. However, these portions of Morimoto merely describe the various structures of the Morimoto device. In the event the rejection is maintained, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to point out with particularity which features of Morimoto correspond to Applicants' claimed features.

The Office Action cites Beck as teaching the JPEG2000 file format. Thus, Beck does not overcome the deficiencies of Morimoto noted above.

Independent claims 4, 8 and 9 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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